

KENTUCKY VIRTUAL UNIVERSITY KENTUCKY VIRTUAL LIBRARY

The Kentucky Virtual University (www.kyvu.org), the state's official virtual campus, offers one-stop access to affordable college credit courses and professional development programs offered online from Kentucky colleges, universities, and state agencies. The KYVU, which includes the Kentucky Virtual Library, was created as part of the *Kentucky Postsecondary Education Improvement Act of 1997*.

The KYVU's mission is to offer quality education to Kentuckians whose work and family situations may not allow them to come to campus, and to give on-campus students an opportunity to complete their degrees more quickly. It allows Kentucky's colleges and universities, independent as well as public, to expand their enrollment beyond students who can get to campuses at assigned places and times.

Enrollment in the KYVU has grown from less than 300 students when it began in fall 1999 to over 9,700 students in fall 2002 (preliminary figures). Of these, over 8,300 were learners enrolled in courses offered by Kentucky's public and independent universities and the Kentucky Community and Technical College System. Nearly 1,200 adult education learners and instructors took advantage of resources offered through www.KYVAE.org, a partnership between KYVU and the Workforce Development Cabinet Department for Adult Education and Literacy. Over 200 P-12 instructors took advantage of resources offered through www.KyEducators.org, a partnership between KYVU and the Education Professional Standards Board.

More than half of the students enrolled in the KYVU are older than traditional college-going age. Nearly two-thirds are women. They come from all 120 Kentucky counties, 19 states, and 10 foreign countries (spring 2002 data).

The Kentucky Virtual Library (www.kyvl.org) serves *all* Kentucky citizens (regardless of whether they are taking or teaching courses) as the single point of access for statewide online library resources. Through the KYVL, Kentuckians can get access to 46 electronic databases offering a wide range of information. They also can make use of other services: an online tutorial on how to search for information, delivery of documents from one library to another, transmission of articles by fax or electronic mail, and reference help. The KYVL handles as many as 700,000 searches a month from public school students, adult learners, people in the workforce, and researchers.

Questions Governing Board Members Might Ask

1. How many academic programs do we offer through the KYVU?
2. Do we have distance learning courses that are not a part of the KYVU?
3. How is the KYVU integrated into our strategic planning process?
4. How do we make optimal use of KYVL?